

May 20, 1975

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on motion to adopt . . . on motion to suspend the rules.

PRESIDENT: The rules are suspended.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, I move that the resolution be accepted by the Legislature and passed. This is not a publication any longer. This is just merely the 200 copies which would be distributed to members of the Legislature so they may have them for themselves and their families, or whoever they so desire. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion? The question is the adoption of Senator Duis' motion. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion is adopted. We go to Select File and we start with the agenda. The first bill on the agenda is LB 577.

CLERK: LB 577 is on Final Reading. There are a series of motions to return the bill. The first one appears to be offered by Senator Bereuter. I move that LB 577 be returned to Select File for specific amendment. The specific amendment is as follows: add a new paragraph . . . strike the Richard Lewis amendment adopted May 7th and insert a new paragraph. The new paragraph is set out in full on page 1803 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Thank you Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, once again the amendment is written on page 1803 of the Legislative Journal. I am also having distributed copies of that amendment. It does strike the Richard Lewis amendment which was offered on General File and added on General File. I'd like to say, and I don't think it's an overstatement, that your vote on this legislation will have more significance to the State of Nebraska in the future than anything else you're going to do here this year. That may sound like an overstatement, I contend it isn't. What this proposed amendment would do is to permit the adoption of reasonable controls and shut off drilling of irrigation wells only after the directors of the board of natural resource districts involved have taken any other methods first. The other methods that are laid out in the law are three. First, to use the allocation system. Second, rotation in use. Third, well spacing. Then if you can find that the loss of water in critical areas, or controlled areas, is so excessive that the public interests can't be protected through one of those three measures, then and only then can the natural resource district close some or all of the control area with the approval of the director of water resources for a one year period. Then, after a one year period, you can again close it. This can go on for a succession of one year periods. What's important about this is that it does not change the